

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to visit today with Members of the body to discuss just one of the aspects of the changes that we have seen in the world. We hear a lot from our friends that the war on terror is not progressing, that there is no significant advancement.

Mr. Speaker, two days ago we were joined by His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, to talk about the changes in his country. He reports that Afghanistan was one of the poorest countries. They had, of course, the Taliban and al Qaeda working there. They have an economy that is controlled by the drug lords. Private militias have been ever present in their countries.

Yet, today he reports that under their new transitional government that they are rebuilding the schools and starting the children back to school. Boy and girls, 5 million of them, are back in schools today in Afghanistan. They are also developing health clinics to provide basic health services for the inhabitants and the citizens of Afghanistan.

One of the most important things he said is they are beginning to rebuild their economy, beginning by rebuilding highways and roads so that commerce can be conducted throughout the nation. As they conduct commerce, they are also beginning to rebuild the military, the militias, their national guard, and reestablish police forces in order to guarantee security for the people of Afghanistan and to defend the country's sovereignty.

The government of Afghanistan is beginning to fight against the narcotics trade, the one that has been so prevalent in that nation and provides drugs throughout the world to eat the heart and soul out of not only their children, but our children and the children of Europe, Germany, France and all

around the world. And when the government of Afghanistan begins to do what they can to stop the flow of illegal drugs throughout the world, we know that the world situation has changed for the better.

He reports to us that the Afghans are beginning to vote with their feet, that over 3 million refugees have come back to Afghanistan and reestablished permanent residence there, voting with their feet, saying that we believe Afghanistan is a better place today than before the United States entered and began to fight the war on terror inside their borders.

The country has adopted an enlightened constitution, one which for the first time begins to recognize the rights of women. And in that constitution, 25 percent of the elected seats are reserved, 25 seats in parliament are reserved for women. A stunning turn around for a culture that in Afghanistan had simply eliminated women from any positions of authority in that country.

He declares that they have established an open and inclusive society. He reports that there are many things that they still have to do, that they are requesting the help of the United States on. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is requesting the help of the United States, help in disbanding the private militias and demobilizing those tremendous forces of evil inside the country that both protect and encourage the drug trade.

He asked that we continue to fight with them to dismantle the entire drug industry, the illegal drug industry in that country, to help them to reduce the very high infant mortality rate. He explains that Afghanistan is open for business but they need businesses to come and help them rebuild the country. And he has an open invitation that asks American businesses to come there to help establish an economy that will sustain their people now and in the future. But he declares to us, President Karzai, declared to us on the floor of this House when he spoke to the joint meeting of the Senate and the House, that the greatest menace still in Afghanistan is terrorism. And he declared that terrorism is the greatest menace worldwide, as well as in Afghanistan.

He talked about al Qaeda in Afghanistan that killed Muslims prior to the US dismantling the Taliban and chasing al Qaeda out of the country.

Mr. Speaker, we were honored to have the President of Afghanistan visit and bring us up to date on the changes that have occurred in his eyes.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for half of the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, tonight we are going to talk a little bit about the accomplishments of the Republicans in the House of Representatives, accomplishments that are going to help us bring jobs back into America.

Over the last generation, our government has consistently created policies that have prevented us from keeping jobs in America. The Republicans in the House have come up with a plan to change that environment so that we can quit the outsourcing of jobs and start the insourcing of jobs. We have divided the issues that have been created by the Federal government into 8 categories. Each one of those categories or issues is going to get a week of our time, a week of dedication to deal with this issue, bring important votes to the floor, and change the environment and bring more jobs into America.

We started out with health care the week of May 11, health care security. We then went to bureaucratic red tape termination, life long learning. This week was energy self-sufficiency and security. We have 4 more topics that deal with ending lawsuit abuse.

Now, under health care security we passed flexible spending accounts to allow employees more choices in their health care. We passed medical malpractice liability limitations to lower the cost of health care by lowering the liability insurance. And we also passed the Small Business Health Fairness Act which allowed small businesses and other associations to bond together to go out and purchase from health care providers and thereby lowering the cost of health care in the United States.

We went on to bureaucratic red tape termination, and we dealt with 4 bills with Occupational Safety and Health or OSHA. We had small business day in court for OSHA. We had OSHA Review Commission Efficiency Act. We had the Independent Review of OSHA Citations act. We had the OSHA Small Employer Access to Justice Act. And then we completed that week with the Paperwork and Regulatory Improvement Act.

We went on to lifelong learning the next week. We talked about the Teacher Training Enhancement Act, the Priorities for Graduates Studies Act, Back to Work Incentives Act, and we completed that week with workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act and having the conferees appointed as well.

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This week we passed three pieces of additional legislation: the Energy Policy Act of 2004, the Renewable Energy Project Siting Improvement Act, and the U.S. Refinery Revitalization Act. Fifteen pieces of legislation have been passed. It is part of the plan that we have that is part of the aggressive nature that the House has taken on to bring jobs back to America.

Next week, we are going to be dealing with research and development.